

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1010
May 10, 2005

Minutes

Member Present:

ELDREDGE, Sandy – Utah Geological Survey
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation
REICHERT, Mike – DEQ/Division of Water Quality
CANNING, Mike – Division of Wildlife Resources
MARTIN, Jim – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
ROHRER, Chris – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
CHRISTY, Kim – School & Institutional Trust Lands
OMBACH, Rik – DEQ/Division of Environmental Response & Remediation

Others Present:

HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources
WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources
NEILSON, Nancy – Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
JENSEN, Steven – Salt Lake County

Kim Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Election

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig made a motion to approve the April 12, 2005 minutes. Karl Kappe seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with minor changes.

II. Special Presentations/Discussions

Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah, Mike Reichert, Division of Water Quality (DEQ) and Steven Jensen, Salt Lake County (SLC) Public Works Department

One year ago, Trout Unlimited was interested addressing abandoned mine problems in American Fork Canyon and began working with DEQ. The U.S. Forest Service has been a catalyst in solving abandoned mining problems on Forest Service land. They had good success in gathering resources and building partnerships with other agencies to address abandon mine problems on private lands. The Division of Water Quality, DEQ became interested in developing an abandoned mine component for the Non-point Source Program. In order for Utah to be eligible for 319 funds relative to the Clean Water Act, the state needed to complete a management plan for abandoned mine. DEQ entered into a contract with Steve Jensen, SLC to help prepare the plan.

Steve Jensen chaired the advisory committee that included several agencies and other stakeholders. The group has met for one year. The Colorado state plan was used as the template for this document. Presenting the document for review state agency review. The Attorney General's Office has received the document for review and will provide certification that the state has the necessary authorities to implement the plan (as part of the Non-point Source Program). In May or June a public notice will announce a public meeting and comment period on the plan. The governor's office will present the plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the end of June.

In 1986, Steve Jensen, SLC and Ken Wyatt, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), conducted an inventory of acid mine drainages in the Wasatch Front. A main acid mine discharge comes out of Little Cottonwood Canyon (Columbus Rexall Mine) east of Alta Peruvian Lodge. In 1994, a work plan included the developed a research demonstration project was used to apply for Rocky Mountain Headwater funds to test innovative technology. A passive bioreactor or man-made peat bog was created to remove heavy metal mine waste. Recycled woodchips from the landfill were distributed in a 30,000 cubic foot pond (fin) to simulate a peat bog. After five years of removing metals and testing, the results indicated 85-95 percent success in removing heavy metal load. Colorado Center for Environmental Management received a grant to create a large regional western state stakeholder collaborative process to work on abandoned mines and they selected the Little Cottonwood Project. In 1996, a sub-watershed collaborative stakeholder group was created to review water quality data in Little Cottonwood Creek. DEQ started water quality monitoring and determined that the zinc standard was violated, which impaired the fishery for zinc. Total Daily Maximum Load is currently in progress. A hydrologic study is investigating if zinc concentrations could be altered and by using the Wasatch Drain Tunnel. The group is also considering using the Alta fin to become a wastewater treatment facility. Utah Geologic Survey (UGS) will help develop a model to determine if channeling the flow into a fin is feasible. Passive bioreactors are inexpensive and easy to maintain. This treatment protocol works well in high elevation remote areas.

In order to continue this project, additional funding request will be necessary from EPA. Requests for funding will not be accepted until the state of Utah completes the non-point source element for abandoned mines. Increasing the fin size to handle the entire flow and monitor the effectiveness of removing heavy metals.

The abandoned mine sites of most pressing concern mentioned in the plan will be expensive to treat. Silver Creek in Park City will be the most expensive site to treat. Trout Unlimited will be volunteering with Snowbird to address abandoned mine issues in Mineral Basin up American Fork Canyon. Alta Little Cottonwood project is the smallest of the three high priority projects. Several other radiological and heavy metal contamination sites have been identified statewide including the Atlas Moab tailings project.

This effort will enable the state of Utah to identify and examine areas of highest concern and help prioritize where future efforts should be focused. Geographic Information System (GIS)

maps and analysis will serve as a tool to identify areas of concern and potential sites for remediation. Surface waters and groundwater will be monitored. GIS information and analysis can assist with identification of a Section 303d segment, CERCLA implementation and other water protection programs, zoning and inventory of impacted/contaminated streams. Best Management Practices portion of the plan was developed by DOGM and includes, planning, design ideas and passive bioreactors.

Plan goals and objectives will be directed and implemented by the Technical Action Committee (TAC). The TAC works on program guidance and outreach efforts. Plan implementation is limited by available funding, authority and jurisdictional issues. Trout Unlimited coordinated regional clean-up efforts. Physical, chemical and biological monitoring will be conducted at the Alta fin site for several years. The document is intended to be an interdisciplinary planning tool.

Volunteers have helped clean up abandoned mine sites however several liability issues (Sierra Club vs. State of California.) has resulted limited participation. Good Samaritan legislation now protects volunteers from litigation was passed by the Western Governor's Association. Limited funding is available to solve these problems. Volunteers will be necessary to accomplish these goals and objectives.

Where would the material be disposed of? The passive bioreactor material disposal will be the local landfill. The material will be removed when the bioreactor reaches target levels of heavy metal accumulation. The target level will not exceed hazardous levels requiring special handling.

What are the major water quality issues in Alta as it related to abandoned mines? Groundwater contamination and leaching are issues in Alta.

Comments are due by May 31, 0225 to Carolyn Wright.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, announced that the division has a new director John Baza.

Mike Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources, reported that the Draft Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy has been completed and is now available for agency and public review. The plan is a ten- year planning document that will guide sensitive species programs/projects, habitat restoration projects and management activities that will be funded over the next ten years. This plan is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain Federal State Wildlife Grant funds.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights, announced that the Legislative Task Force taking a field trip this week to southern Utah to discuss water overdrafting and land subsidence (Beryl Fissures). Southern Nevada Water Project is conducting several scoping meetings. The public

meeting schedule is available on the Southern Nevada Water Authority website at www.snwa.com or contact Kim Frost for more information.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, announced a delay in completing the Utah Lake Management Plan. The scoping information should be available before the next RDCC meeting.

Kim Frost, Public Land Policy Coordination Office reported for Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), that the Fires and Fuels Management Environmental Assessment and the Greater Three Peaks Amendment will both be sent to the governor's office for a 60-day consistency review during June and July 2005. The Vernal Resource Management Plan comment period will continue until five days after the BLM website is restored.

Kim Christy, School and Trust Lands Administration, announced the Natural Resources and Agriculture Interim meeting agenda included a discussion about multiple-use of state and BLM lands. A road interface issue in the Book Cliffs area began with an easement for a natural gas pipeline on the Winter Ridge road. Reclamation efforts were unsuccessful and resulted in a muddy road. The mud was pushed off to the perimeter of the easement to make the road passable and resulted in impacts to livestock grazing operations. In June, the Interim meeting agenda will include a discussion the State History office legislation. John Harja, Lands Policy Group, reported that a meeting to discuss legislative language for the State History and to determine where this group should reside. All agencies will be able report on existing coordination with State History.

Brian Cottom will participate in future meetings as often as possible or via conference calls if he is unable to attend. Five counties Daggett, Uinta, San Juan, Tooele and Iron counties are using the county resource planning tool kit. Mike Hansen is considering creating a Community Development Coordinating Committee to serve as a clearinghouse for community planning and development projects outside of the Resource Development Coordinating Committee. A website may be used to list these projects.

The recent *Roadless Rule* decision indicates that coordination between state and federal agencies National Forest Service offers an opportunity to determine management scenarios for roadless areas as individual plans are completed. This will provide interim protection for inventoried roadless areas. The state would determine the appropriate management for roadless areas. Then the governor would petition the Secretary of Agriculture for adoption of these plans. The review of these plans would entail a review by the Secretary and a national advisory committee that would be established. If the Secretary accepts the petition a federal rule-making process (Environmental Impact Statement) will be initiated. Brian Cottom and John Harja are working on this issue and are requesting that agencies identify roadless areas that may be hindering other uses and activities. John Harja stated that undeveloped roads and unroaded areas are being discussed. A request was made to all state directors to review undeveloped/unroaded areas and identify any important management issues or concerns.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

A handout of the current status of the RDCC Project Management System was provided to the committee.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on June 14, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1010.